REMARKS

None of the cited references suggest that the way to reduce the size of the sum of absolute differences determining circuitry is to use less than all the bits to do the determination. It is only the inventors of the present application that determined that all of the bits of the pixel values are not needed for the comparison purposes, while they are all needed in other sum of absolute difference calculations.

The fact that Lam suggests using, in a different context, less than all the bits does not suggest using less than all the bits to reduce the size of the sum of absolute difference circuitry in the course of doing motion estimation to identify a correspondence between macroblocks and a reference block in a search window. This is especially so since motion estimation using SAD always uses all of the pixel value's bits.

Therefore, reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>May 19, 2010</u>

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